

STATE OF NEW YORK
LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY
BUFFALO, NY, JANUARY 19, 2023

Congratulating and Honoring Phil Aguglia

WHEREAS, *Phil Aguglia*, a SUNY Fredonia graduate is representing Western New York with yet another milestone accomplishment, he is a finalist for the 2023 GRAMMY Music Educator Award; and

WHEREAS, the award, presented by the Recording Academy and GRAMMY Museum, recognizes current educators who are committed to making a significant contribution to the music education field; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Aguglia is one of only 10 music teachers in the U.S. to earn this distinction; and

WHEREAS, Phi began teaching at Kenmore East High School in 2002 and has become well known by his students for his colorful costumes on the podium, as well as organizing music trips and hosting guest artists from around the country; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Aguglia facilitates countless opportunities for his students to perform and enrich Kenmore East and the larger Ken-Ton community through their music; and

WHEREAS, a large part of Aguglia's teaching style is finding fun and lively new ways to keep kids engaged; and

WHEREAS, Phil is part of a district-wide music department that's been designated as a Best Community for Music Education by the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation for 12 straight years; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career, Mr. Aguglia has been involved in dozens of collaborations, has received 30 nominations or awards for excellence in teaching (including a nomination for People Magazine's Teacher of the Year in 2012), and has hosted more than 100 guest artists; and

WHEREAS, teaching at the high school is not the only way Aguglia gives back to the local music community; and

WHEREAS, Phil is also the Second Vice Chair for Western New York-based nonprofit Music is Art, which helps create opportunities and access for local musicians; and

WHEREAS, he has organized multiple band trips to New Orleans, their first of which received nationwide attention as they assisted with Hurricane Katrina relief efforts; and

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, he planned many creative ways to continue his students' progress including virtual collaborations and weekly concerts outside his home; and

WHEREAS, this honorable body seeks to honor individuals, such as Phil Aguglia, whose desire to bless our community with his gifts, drive & ambition to become an exceptional musician and educator should be praised and recognized; and

WHEREAS, today, we recognize Kenmore East High School Band Director *Phil Aguglia*, who has made history as one of the first Western New York music teachers to be named a finalist for the 2023 GRAMMY Music Educator Award.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature does hereby applaud and recognize *Phil Aguglia* on his exceptional dedication and unselfish service throughout Erie County; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body congratulates Mr. Aguglia for this incredible distinction, wishes him luck in the final round, and offers our deepest appreciation for his dedicated work.

Hon. Michael H. Kooshoian
Erie County Legislator, 3rd District

Hon. John A. Bargnesi Jr.
Erie County Legislator, 4th District